

conclusions, and recommendation of the administrative law judge, in whole or in part, he shall by order make such findings and conclusions as in his opinion are warranted by the law and the facts in the record. Any decision of the regional director (compliance) ordering the disapproval of an initial application for a license or permit shall state the findings and conclusions upon which it is based, including his ruling upon each proposed finding, conclusion, and exception to the administrative law judge's recommended decision, together with a statement of his findings and conclusions, and reasons or basis for his findings and conclusions, upon all material issues of fact, law or discretion presented on the record. A signed duplicate original of the decision will be served upon the applicant and the original copy containing certificate of service will be placed in the official record of the proceedings. If the decision of the regional director (compliance) is in favor of the applicant, he shall issue the license or permit, to be effective on issuance.

(b) *Renewal application and revocation proceedings.* Upon receipt of the complete certified records of the hearing, the regional director (compliance) shall enter an order confirming the revocation of the license or permit, or disapproving the application, in accordance with the administrative law judge's findings and decision, unless he disagrees with the findings and decision. A signed duplicate original of the order, ATF F 5400.9, will be served upon the licensee or permittee and the original copy containing certificate of service will be placed in the official record of the proceedings. If the regional director (compliance) disagrees with the findings and decision of the administrative law judge, he shall file a petition with the Director for review of the findings and decision, as provided in § 555.79. In either case, if the renewal application denial is sustained, a copy of the application marked "Disapproved" will be returned to the applicant. If the renewal application denial is reversed, a license or permit will be issued to become effective on expiration of the license or permit being renewed, or on the date of issuance, whichever is later. If the pro-

ceedings involve the revocation of a license or permit which expired before a decision is in favor of the licensee or permittee, the regional director (compliance) shall:

(1) If renewal application was timely filed and a stay of the effective date of the revocation was granted, cause to be issued a license or permit effective on the date of issuance;

(2) If renewal application was not timely filed but a stay of the effective date of the revocation had been granted, request that a renewal application be filed and, following that, cause to be issued a license or permit to be effective on issuance; or

(3) If a stay of the effective date of the revocation had not been granted, request that an application be filed as provided in § 555.45, and process it in the same manner as for an application for an original license or permit.

(c) *Curtailment of stay of revocation effective date.* If, after approval of a request for a stay of the effective date of an order revoking a license or permit but before actions are completed under this subpart, the regional director (compliance) finds that it is contrary to the public interest for the licensee or permittee to continue the operations or activities covered by his license or permit, the regional director (compliance) may issue a notice of withdrawal of the approval, effective on the date of issuance. Notice of withdrawal will be served upon the licensee or permittee in the manner provided in § 555.81.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981, as amended by T.D. ATF-290, 54 FR 53054, Dec. 27, 1989]

§ 555.77 Designated place of hearing.

The designated place of hearing set as provided in § 555.73 or § 555.75, will be at the location convenient to the aggrieved party.

§ 555.78 Representation at a hearing.

An applicant, licensee, or permittee may be represented by an attorney, certified public accountant, or other person recognized to practice before the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms as provided in 31 CFR Part 8, if he has otherwise complied with the applicable requirements of 26 CFR